

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 SAB-01 ACDA-07 /122 W

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R 241248Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3401

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO SRI LANKA

AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA INDONESIA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS FR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL KOREA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISRAEL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA, US, KS

SUBJECT : FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHRAIN ON NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF : (A) COLOMBO 3176 (B) STATE 204517 (C) COLOMBO 3056

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHRAIN, SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AUGUST 24 MORNING TO "SHARE WITH ME" HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED NAC. HE SPECIFICALLY WANTED THE USG TO KNOW THAT BAHRAIN HAD
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ENTERED FORMAL, WRITTEN RESERVATIONS TO THE RESOLUTIONS ON

KOREA, PUERTO RICO AND TIMOR. HE NOTED WITH SOME EMPHASIS THE RELATIVE WEAKNESS (VIS-A-VIS THE DISCIPLINED "COMMUNISTS") OF THE MODERATE BLOC (INCLUDING BAHRAIN), AGAIN LAMENTED THE IN-ACTIVITY OF THE SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES, SAID HE THOUGHT THE SAUDIS HAD MADE A MISTAKE BY SENDING ONLY AN AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE (WHICH, HE SAID, HAD IMPACT ON THE GULF REGIONAL INPUT), EXPRESSED HIMSELF PLEASED WITH THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "MODERATE" AND "RESPONSIBLE"), PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IRAQ AND THE PLO ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE RESOLUTIONS.

2. SHAIKH MOHAMMAD SAID HE THOUGH USG SHOULD TAKE SOME PRIDE IN HAVING EFFECTIVELY LOBBIED IN ADVANCE ON ITS VIEWS ON THE MATTERS WHICH IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED THE US--PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. HE SAID HE THOUGH AS A RESULT OF THAT LOBBYING, THAT A "SURPRISING NUMBER" OF FRIENDS OF THE US SPOKE UP ON BOTH ISSUES. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE TOLD AN ARAB CAUCUS THAT IT AS A GROUP SIMPLY COULD NOT IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE PUERTO RICO RESOLUTION SINCE PUERTO RICO HAD SOMETHING NONE OF THEM HAD--FREE AND SECRET ELECTIONS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT INCREDIBLE THAT THE NAC SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE "THE WILL OF THE MINORITY ON THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY" OF PUERTO RICANS (I.E., THOSE WHO FAVOR INDEPENDENCE OVER THOSE WHO DO NOT, BASED ON THE PAST ELECTION RESULTS).

3. ON KOREA, HE LAMENTED AS HE HAS DONE TO AMBASSADOR TWINAM ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, THE LACK OF "PRESENCE" OF THE SOUTH KOREANS. AGAIN HE CITED THE DOGGED AND "OBNOXIOUS" PURSUIT OF THEIR GOALS BY THE NORTH KOREANS; HE PERSONALIZED THIS GENERAL COMMENT BY RECOUNTING THE NORTH KOREAN INSISTENCE ON CALLING ON THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN WHEN HE HAD PERSONALLY TOLD THEM THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE. SO THEY CALLED ON THE AMIR. HE CLAIMED TO BE SURPRISED TO HEAR (FROM ME) THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD BEEN IN COLOMBO. HE NOTED THAT BAHRAINIS AND OTHERS IN GULF FOUND THE SOUTH KOREANS "MOST AGGRESSIVE" ON COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS AND WONDERED WHY THEY WERE SUCH "LIMP RAGS" ON POLITICAL MATTERS. HE NOTED AS EARLIER THAT HE THOUGHT US AND OTHER "EUROPEAN" REPRESENTATION OF "KOREAN INTERESTS" AS CONTRASTED TO "US INTERESTS IN KOREA" WAS NOT HELPFUL IN THE "NON-ALIGNED ENVIRONMENT". IN OTHER WORDS HE THOUGHT THAT SEOUL SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTIVE IN LOBBYING FOR ITS OWN DIRECT, CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL INTERESTS.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED PETROLEUM BOYCOTT OF FRANCE AND ISRAEL, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE AND AMIR READ ABOUT SUBJECT IN NEWSPAPERS AFTER THEIR RETURN TO BAHRAIN AUGUST 20. HE SAID THE SUBJECT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND MENTIONED IN THE FORM OF A COMMUNIQUE FROM THAT COMMITTEE BUT THAT IT HAD NO STATUS AS A

RESOLUTION FROM THE ASSEMBLY NOR HAD IT BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE THOUGHT THE WESTERN PRESS WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO EMBARRASS FRANCE AND THE ARAB STATES. WHEN ASKED IF THERE MIGHT BE A BOYCOTT OF FRANCE, HE REPLIED "NO".

5. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, SHAIKH MOHAMMAD PROMISED TO SUPPLY EMBASSY WITH A COMPLETE TEXT OF AMIR'S SPEECH. AFTER RECEIPT OF SUCH (WHICH HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED IN THE LOCAL PRESS), WE WILL FORWARD COMMENTS, IF APPROPRIATE (REF C).
BURLEIGH

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